The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1.   A user interface for receiving user instructions from an input device, and for presenting digital media to a user and allowing user manipulation of that media, the interface comprising:

a plurality of digital media items configurable by the user;

a plurality of graphical representations presented to the user, each of the graphical representations being associated with a respective one of the digital media items and depicting one of a plurality of a user-familiar environments, and each of the graphical representations being selectable by the user;

a menu having a plurality of menu options selectable by the user; and

wherein the user can configure the digital media items and select the graphical representations and the menu options with up, down, left, right, and selection instructions.

2.   The interface of Claim 1 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein each of the graphical representations depicts a photograph displayed in an open photo album.

3.   The interface of Claim 1 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein each of the graphical representations depicts a framed picture displayed in a gallery.

4.   The interface of Claim 1 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein each of the graphical representations depicts a photograph included in a filmstrip.

5.   The interface of Claim 1 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein each of the graphical representations depicts a photograph and associated text in a storybook.

6.   The interface of Claim 1 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein each of the graphical representations depicts a photographic slide in a slide show.

7.   The interface of Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of text entries input by the user and associated with respective ones of the digital media items.

8.   The interface of Claim 7, further comprising a keyboard display presented to the user and operable by the user with the up, down, left, right, and selection instructions for user input of the text entries.

9.   The interface of Claim 1 wherein each of the digital media items is a collection of digital media.

10.   The interface of Claim 9 wherein each of the digital media items is a collection of digital images, and wherein each of the graphical representations depicts a photo album positioned on a bookcase.

11.   The interface of Claim 9 wherein each of the digital media items is a collection of digital images, and wherein user selection of each of the graphical representations associated with the digital media items displays the corresponding collection of digital images in one of a plurality of user-determinable formats.

12.   The interface of Claim 11 wherein the user-determinable formats include depictions of the collections of digital images as photographs displayed in an open photo album.

13.   The interface of Claim 11 wherein the user-determinable formats include depictions of the collections of digital images as framed pictures displayed in a gallery.

14.   The interface of Claim 11 wherein the user-determinable formats include depictions of the collections of digital images as photographs in a filmstrip.

15.   The interface of Claim 11 wherein the user-determinable formats include depictions of the collections of digital images as photographs displayed in a storybook, with each of the photographs having associated text.

16.   The interface of Claim 11 wherein the user-determinable formats include depictions of the collections of digital images as photographic slides in a slide show.

17.   The interface of Claim 9, further comprising a plurality of text entries input by the user and associated with respective ones of the collections of digital media.

18.   The interface of Claim 1 wherein the menu options include:

digital media import operations;

digital media configuration operations;

user information operations; and

product purchase operations.

19.   The interface of Claim 18, further comprising a keyboard display presented to the user and operable by the user with the up, down, left, right, and selection instructions for user entry of text in connection with the digital media configuration operations and user information operations.

20.   The interface of Claim 18 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein the menu options further comprise digital image enhancement operations.

21.   The interface of Claim 1 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein each of the graphical representations depicts a photographic slide in a slide show, and wherein the menu options include slide show operations selectable by the user to configure slide show transitions.

22.   The interface of Claim 21 wherein the slide show transitions include user-configurable transition times between successive displays of the photographic slides.

23.   The interface of Claim 21 wherein the slide show transitions include user-configurable visual or audio effects between successive displays of the photographic slides.

24.   The interface of Claim 1 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein the menu options include product purchase operations selectable by the user to graphically represent one of the digital images on a selected product.

25.   The interface of Claim 24 wherein the selected product is an electronic greeting card including a digital image and associated text provided by the user for transmission to one or more user-designated recipients.

26.   A method of presenting a plurality of digital media items to a user and for allowing manipulation of those media items by the user, the method comprising:

presenting a plurality of graphical representations to the user, each of the graphical representations being selectable by the user and being associated with a respective one of the digital media items, and each of the graphical representations depicting one of a plurality of user-familiar environments;

presenting a menu to the user, with the menu including a plurality of menu options selectable by the user; and

providing the user with selection control of the graphical representations and the menu options by use of up, down, left, right, and selection instructions.

27.   The method of Claim 26 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein presenting a plurality of graphical representations to the user includes presenting depictions of photographs in an open photo album.

28. The method of Claim 26 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein presenting a plurality of graphical representations to the user includes presenting depictions of framed pictures in a gallery.

29. The method of Claim 26 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein presenting a plurality of graphical representations to the user includes presenting depictions of photographs in a filmstrip.

30. The method of Claim 26 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein presenting a plurality of graphical representations to the user includes presenting depictions of photographs and associated text in a storybook.

31. The method of Claim 26 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein presenting a plurality of graphical representations to the user includes presenting depictions of photographic slides in a slide show.

32. The method of Claim 26 wherein the menu options include presenting a graphical representation of a keyboard for user entry of text.

33. The method of Claim 32 wherein presenting a graphical representation of a keyboard includes providing the user with selection control of text entry by the keyboard by use of the up, down, left, right, and selection instructions.

34. The method of Claim 26 wherein each of the digital media items is a collection of digital images, and wherein presenting a plurality of graphical representations to the user includes presenting depictions of photo albums positioned on a bookcase.

35. The method of Claim 26 wherein each of the digital media items is a collection of digital images, and wherein providing the user with selection control of the graphical representations includes providing the user with display selection control by which the collections of digital images are selected for display, and

wherein the menu options include providing the user with display configuration control by which the collections of digital images can be identified for display in respective ones of a plurality of formats.

36.   The method of Claim 35 wherein providing the user with display configuration control includes providing user identification of one or more of the collections of digital images for display as photographs in an open photo album.

37.   The method of Claim 35 wherein providing the user with display configuration control includes providing user identification of one or more of the collections of digital images for display as framed pictures in a gallery.

38.   The method of Claim 35 wherein providing the user with display configuration control includes providing user identification of one or more of the collections of digital images for display as photographs in a filmstrip.

39.   The method of Claim 35 wherein providing the user with display configuration control includes providing user identification of one or more of the collections of digital images for display as photographs and associated text in a storybook.

40.   The method of Claim 35 wherein providing the user with display configuration control includes providing user identification of one or more of the collections of digital images for display as photographic slides in a slide show

41.   The method of Claim 35 wherein the menu options include presenting a graphical representation of a keyboard for user entry of text.

42.   The method of Claim 41 wherein presenting a graphical representation of a keyboard includes providing the user with selection control of text entry by the keyboard by use of the up, down, left, right, and selection instructions.

43.   The method of Claim 26 wherein presenting a menu to the user includes:

presenting digital media import operations;

presenting digital media configuration operations;

presenting user information operations; and

presenting product purchase operations.

44. The method of Claim 43 wherein presenting digital media configuration operations or presenting user information operations includes presenting a graphical representation of a keyboard for user entry of text, including providing the user with selection control of text entry by the keyboard by use of the up, down, left, right, and selection instructions.

45. The method of Claim 43 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein presenting a menu to the user further includes presenting digital image enhancement operations.

46. The method of Claim 26 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein presenting a plurality of graphical representations to the user includes presenting depictions of photographic slides in a slide show, and wherein presenting a menu to the user includes presenting slide show operations selectable by the user to configure slide show transitions.

47. The method of Claim 46 wherein presenting slide show operations includes providing user selection of transition times between successive displays of the photographic slides.

48. The method of Claim 46 wherein presenting slide show operations includes providing user selection of visual or audio effects between successive displays of the photographic slides.

49. The method of Claim 26 wherein each of the digital media items is a digital image, and wherein presenting a menu to the user includes presenting product purchase operations, including providing a graphical representation of a selected one of the digital images on a selected one of a plurality of products.

50.   The method of Claim 49 wherein the selected product is an electronic greeting card including the selected digital image and associated text provided by the user for transmission to one or more user-designated recipients.